

REMARKS

Applicant thanks Examiner Lacourciere for the courtesies extended to Applicant's representatives during the telephonic interview conducted on January 28, 2004. Applicant's statement of the substance of that interview was previously filed on March 11, 2004.

Claims 1-25 are currently pending in the application. In order to advance prosecution, Applicants have canceled claims 1-3, 9-12, 20-22, and 24-25 without prejudice to their prosecution in a continuation application or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. The cancellation of claims 1-3, 9-12, 20-22, and 24-25 makes no admission regarding the patentability of this subject matter and should not be so construed. In addition, Applicants amend claims 4-5, 13-15, 17, and 23. These claims have been amended merely to remove the dependency from claims 1, 3, and 12. Support for claims 4-5, 13-15, 17, and 23 as amended can be found throughout the specification. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Allowed Claims

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of claims 18 and 19.

Rejections under 35 USC § 102(b)

Claims 1-3, 9-12, 20-22, 24 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ellington et al.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office that the subject matter of claims 1-3, 9-12, 20-22, 24 and 25 are anticipated by Ellington et al. However, solely in an effort to expedite

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5

Serial No. 09/630,846
Attorney Docket MBHB 00-919-D 250/111
Filing Date: August 2, 2000

the allowance of claims 2-8, 13-19, and 23, Applicant has canceled claims 1-3, 9-12, 20-22, 24 and 25, rendering the rejection moot as to these claims.

Claim Objections

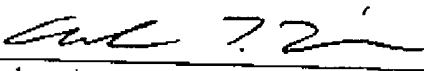
With respect to claims 4-5, 13-15, 17, and 23, Applicant has amended the claims to remove the dependency from claim 1, 3, and 12. Accordingly, Applicant believes claims 4-5, 13-15, 17, and 23 are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, the application is considered to be in good and proper form for allowance and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: June 7, 2004



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